WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured $350,000 in critical funding for the Brookings Emergency Operating Center (EOC). The EOC will be utilized by city, county, state and non-profit organizations to coordinate responses to disaster emergencies affecting Curry County.

"This vital project will provide state of the art disaster response to residents of Curry County," DeFazio said. "I am pleased to secure funding for such an important project to keep our citizens safe."

"The addition of the EOC will complete our efforts to improve the disaster emergency response and coordination facilities in southern Curry County where a majority of Curry County residents reside," said City Manager Gary Milliman.   "We are very appreciative of the efforts of Congressman DeFazio in championing this project."

A City Council meeting room currently functions as an EOC when needed. However, this room has no communications equipment or systems to support the EOC function. The new EOC will be equipped with the latest communications equipment and systems which will enable local emergency managers to assess the severity of a disaster emergency, prioritize emergency response, and request assistance from outside sources in a more effective manner. The EOC will help south coast residents respond to natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, coastal erosion and tsunamis. The EOC will also be used as a training facility for local government employees and volunteers engaged in emergency response and disaster recovery.

The facility will be located at the Brookings civic center, adjacent to the newly completed $900,000 state of the art emergency communications tower. The city-funded communications tower project included the installation of an emergency generator and other facilities to support the EOC.

The funding was included in the House Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010, which

passed out of Subcommittee today. The measure now must be considered by the full Appropriations Committee.